



System Training and Response (STaR) Team – SAIS Information Series

SAIS Related ELL Student Assessment Rules for FY 2008

This document describes rules applicable to the submission of student assessment results related to participation in English Language Learner Programs to the Student Accountability Information System. Please note that the ADE Office of English Language Acquisition Services (OELAS) issues additional regulations relating to student assessment and that all assessment related regulations may be subject to change due to rulings of the OELAS, the Arizona Legislature, State and Federal courts and/or the Arizona English Language Learner Task Force.

1. Each student in a language program must have a record of an assessment administered within the current or past fiscal year in SAIS. The assessment date must be on or prior to the student's language program participation start date for the current school year.
2. The assessment administered on or prior to a student's language program participation start date must demonstrate that the student is in need of language program assistance. (Overall Assessment Result = *ELL*, or *ELL After Reclassification*)
3. The date submitted for each sub-portion of the assessment must be the date the sub-portion of the assessment was administered.
4. The date submitted for each sub-portion of the assessment must be within the fiscal year identified in the header of the SAIS submission file.
5. Assessments may be administered on non-school days.
6. Assessment results may only be submitted by the Local Educational Agency that administers the assessment.
7. When adding an assessment record to SAIS, each of the following fields contained within the Student Assessment transaction (12) must be populated:
 - Oral Assessment Date
 - Oral Assessment Score (Scaled Score)
 - Oral Proficiency Level
 - Reading Assessment Date
 - Reading Assessment Score (Scaled Score)
 - Reading Proficiency Level
 - Writing Assessment Date
 - Writing Assessment Score (Scaled Score)
 - Writing Proficiency Level
 - Overall Assessment Result
 - Overall Total Composite Scaled Score
 - Overall Proficiency Level
8. When changing values for any sub-portion or any overall result of an assessment record that already exists in SAIS, all three elements pertaining to at least one sub-portion of the assessment must be submitted (i.e., Date, Score and Proficiency Level).

9. All assessment score elements (Oral, Reading, Writing and Overall Total Composite Scaled Score) must have a code value range of 100-999.
10. When the Overall Assessment Result is *Initial FEP*, *Continuing FEP* or *Reclassified FEP*, the Overall Proficiency Level must be *Proficient*.¹
11. When the Overall Assessment Result is *ELL* or *ELL After Reclassification*, the Overall Proficiency Level must be *Pre-Emergent*, *Emergent*, *Basic* or *Intermediate*.¹
12. Up to two assessments will be allowed to be recorded in SAIS per student per fiscal year for any individual district or charter holder when a student is determined by SAIS to be new to an ELL program in Arizona during the first half of the fiscal year. The first assessment must be administered between July 1 and December 31. A second assessment may be administered between January 1 and the end of the school year.^{1, 2}
13. One assessment will be allowed to be recorded in SAIS per student per fiscal year for any individual district or charter holder when a student is determined by SAIS to be continuing in an ELL program, “Continuing Fluent English Proficient Year 1 or Year 2,” or new to an ELL program in Arizona between January 1 and the end of the school year. This assessment must be administered between January 1 and the end of the school year.^{1, 2}
14. If a properly formatted assessment transaction is submitted by a second district/charter holder within the same fiscal year as an assessment record that already exists in SAIS, SAIS will accept the transaction and issue a warning stating that a record for an assessment administered within the same fiscal year already exists in SAIS.
15. Students who have not reached 5 years of age by January 1 are ineligible for placement in an ELL program, and therefore, should not take a language assessment.
16. All students at all grade levels who are subject to taking the language assessment are required to attempt each sub-portion of the assessment. Scaled scores of 998 to indicate that a student has not attempted a sub-portion of the assessment that were used in previous fiscal years are no longer valid.
17. SAIS will accept actual scaled scores for all assessment sub-portions and the AZELLA Total Composite Scaled Score when the Overall Assessment Result is Continuing FEP. A Total Composite Scaled Score of 999, formerly reported for Continuing FEP students, is no longer valid.¹
18. SAIS will issue an Integrity warning when a student has a record of an Overall Assessment Result of Reclassified FEP indicating that the student should be withdrawn from the ELL program before the end of the school year.¹

¹ Rule is new for fiscal year 2008.

² Statute refers to but does not clearly define “end of school year.” Guidance from the ADE Office of English Language Acquisition Services suggests that end of year assessments be administered as close to the end of the school year as possible, but that LEAs with a large number of assessments to administer between January 1st and the end of the school year may consider assessing *Continuing FEP* students beginning in January and assessing students who are participating in an ELL program no earlier than February 2nd (the day after the final ELL program participation count date).